

CLAIMS

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An electro-static dissipating swab, comprising:
a handle defining a longitudinal axis, the handle being elongated and having a cleaning head end and a grasping end, the cleaning head end defining a securing region, the handle formed from an electro-static dissipative material; and
a cleaning tip, the cleaning tip being formed from an electro-static dissipative material and secured to the handle cleaning head end, the handle and cleaning tip defining a longitudinal axis,
wherein the swab, in a dry state, dissipates a static electrical charge from a charge plate having a 20 picofarad capacitance at a charge of 1000 volts to a charge of less than 10 volts in less than about 500 milliseconds and in a wetted state dissipates a static electrical charge from a charge plate having a 20 picofarad capacitance at a charge of 1000 volts to a charge of less than 10 volts in less than about 100 milliseconds.
2. The electro-static dissipating swab in accordance with claim 1 wherein the handle is formed from a modified polybutylene terephthalate.
3. The electro-static dissipating swab in accordance with claim 1 wherein the cleaning tip is formed from a sealed conductive fabric.
4. The electro-static dissipating swab in accordance with claim 1 wherein the cleaning tip is formed from a knit polyester.
5. The electro-static dissipating swab in accordance with claim 1 wherein the cleaning tip is formed from a conductive foam.
6. The electro-static dissipating swab in accordance with claim 1 wherein the cleaning tip is formed from a micro-porous foam.

-8-

7. The electro-static dissipating swab in accordance with claim 1 wherein the cleaning tip is formed from a strip of static-dissipative material spirally wound onto the handle at the securing region.

8. The electro-static dissipating swab in accordance with claim 1 wherein the cleaning tip is formed from a sheet of static-dissipative material wrapped around the handle and sealed thereto.

9. The electro-static dissipating swab in accordance with claim 8 wherein the sheet is sealed to itself and to the handle by ultrasonic welding.

10. The electro-static dissipating swab in accordance with claim 8 wherein the sheet is sealed to itself and to the handle by heat sealing.

11. The electro-static dissipating swab in accordance with claim 1 wherein the static-dissipative material is in the form of a seam-less tube.

12. The electro-static dissipating swab in accordance with claim 11 wherein the tube is sealed to the handle by ultrasonic welding or heat sealing.

13. The electro-static dissipating swab in accordance with claim 11 wherein the tube is press-fit to the handle.

Press-fit OK OK 12/28/00

14. The electro-static dissipating swab in accordance with claim 11 wherein the tube is secured to the handle by at least one spot seals.